

**July/August 2009**

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“I’m not a member of an organised religion. I’m a Quaker.”



**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE!**



walk  
carefully

South Australian  
Quaker newsletter  
(founded 1926)

walking cheerfully  
is available in  
hardcopy or from  
sa.quakers.org.au

We welcome your  
contributions  
by post, email  
or in person.  
The closing date  
is the first Sunday  
of the month.

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## Australian Quaker Centre

The 2009 AQC will operate from 6 September to 30 November 2009 at Silver Wattle, a former sheep property and retreat centre near Bungendore, about 40 minutes from Canberra. Full details are on the web at [aqc.quakers.org.au](http://aqc.quakers.org.au) and we can be contacted at [aqc@quakers.org.au](mailto:aqc@quakers.org.au).

We hope many Friends will come and spend some time in the Centre with us. It would be good to have a range of experiences for all, and also give us a more grounded basis for making decisions at YM2010 about future developments.

### Administrator and cook needed

We need some expressions of interest in the positions of both administrator and cook—a couple of potential options have not eventuated. There will be scope for sharing these roles if necessary. Please contact David Johnson (07 40963236) or Helen Bayes (04 221 3899) or via [aqc@quakers.org.au](mailto:aqc@quakers.org.au), as soon as possible.

David Johnson  
*AQC Working Group Convener*  
Helen Bayes  
*AQC Director*

### Assistance to attend AQC courses

The Australian Quaker Centre (AQC) will offer a suite of courses between September and November of this year. They will be held at Silver Wattle, in rural New South Wales.

Full details are available at [aqc.quakers.org.au](http://aqc.quakers.org.au) or in a hard copy pamphlet available through clerks and correspondents.

Regional Meeting, acting on a request from Standing Committee, has made up to \$3000 available to support Friends in attending. While this amount is approximately equal to three full registrations, the funding will be distributed to enable the maximum number of Friends to attend. Any grants made will be directed solely towards registration.

Consistent with our process for allocating support to attend Yearly Meeting, R M&O manage this process, through a small working group appointed from within its membership.

### Calling all booklovers

The Australian Quaker Centre (AQC), which will be active from 1 September 2009, is in the process of setting up a library. The library will be a core part of the study resources at the AQC. We have acquired our first 49 books by donation and we have also created a list of the books we especially want to acquire, although we are open to other donations. You can find our webpage at [aqc.quakers.org.au](http://aqc.quakers.org.au)

With the computer savvy of John Symond, we have made good progress on creating a catalogue of everything we have so far received and of what we hope to acquire, totalling nearly 200. We can send a copy of this list by email, if you are interested to see it.

The AQC is asking all Meetings in Australia, and all individuals within them, to consider donating relevant books and pamphlets to us. We especially ask for any items for which you have duplicate copies.

Thank you in anticipation  
Helen Bayes (Director AQC)  
0422 138 991  
[helenbayes@me.com](mailto:helenbayes@me.com)

Timing for this is short, as the AQC management group will need to make decisions very soon as to which courses will run.

If you would like to be considered for a (registration) subsidy, please prepare a brief written application (no longer than one page), indicating

- the amount of support you seek
- your willingness/ability to make a co-contribution to registration
- the benefit you expect to achieve from participating
- the nature of contribution you intend to make to SARM and/or your local meeting on return

Your application should be submitted to David Evans (R M&O Convenor) at either [ca123387@a1.com.au](mailto:ca123387@a1.com.au)

or

PO Box 181, Glen Osmond SA 5064  
by Tuesday 18 August 2009.



## SARM minutes

Sunday, 2 August 2009

1. In attendance: Jenny Norris-Green, Kerry O'Regan, Sonia Raupach, Max Raupach, Charles Stevenson, Elizabeth Stevenson, Michael Tolley, Inga Tolley, David Evans, Liz Pyatt, Julie Webb, Humphrey Tranter, Angie Gillingham, Geoff Greeves, Ann Rees, Roger Keyes, Jenny Stock, Bert Stock, Beverlie Hopkins, Harald Ehmann, Cherylie Lloyd, Jo Jordan, Kate Alessia.

### 2. Opening in worship

During a period of silent worship, we hear a reading from Eileen Flanagan:

Spiritual discernment is the process of sifting divine guidance from other influences: from internal forces such as fear or selfishness to external pressures and expectations. A willingness to listen and to let go of our own agendas can help us sift through all the voices we hear and discern how God is leading us.

### 3. Acknowledgement of Country

We spend some time in silence reflecting on the relationship between the traditional custodians and the land on which we meet.

4. We welcome Liz Pyatt and Harald Ehmann to this and subsequent Regional Meetings.

Confirm agenda

### 5. Minutes of June Regional Meeting

The Minutes are agreed and signed.

### 6. Membership matters

~ Membership application

David Barry: We are delighted to receive David's request for membership and appoint Drew Thomas and Barbara Talbot as visitors (subject to their consent).

### 7. Treasurer's report

Geoff Greeves presents the Treasurer's report. We receive the Report, and ask that a copy be included with the minutes.

~ We accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee that up to \$3000 is set aside to assist Friends to attend courses at the Australia Quaker Centre.

~ Regional Meeting reminds the Finance Committee that Friends might require assistance to attend YM2010. Friends are reminded to approach their local Meeting for assistance to attend YM2010 if required.

~ Committees are asked to provide the Treasurer with an estimate of the funds they require for the 2009-2010 financial year; the budget is to be presented to the October Regional Meeting.

~ The Nunyara weekend was a success both spiritually and financially. We express gratitude to Dale Hess for declining

payment for his contribution to the weekend.

~ In July 2010 there will be a special Regional Meeting to consider papers for Standing Committee.

### 8. Nominations

~ Peri Coleman has agreed to serve on the RM Outreach Committee.

~ We accept John Edwards' request to leave the Funeral and Burial Committee. Nominations Committee has not yet had time to consider his replacement; the incoming Nominations Committee will deal with this matter.

~ Jo Jordan is the new Eastern Suburbs appointment to the Nominations Committee to serve from the October RM, with Inga Tolley the continuing member. Adelaide Local Meeting is to bring forward two names to the October RM.

### 9. YM 2010 Progress

~ Kerry O'Regan reports that arrangements for YM2010 are firming up, including about Young Friends' needs and the Backhouse Lecture. Michael Searle is continuing the on-line registration process. The Summer School program is finalised and other programs are proceeding well.

~ Harald Ehmann reported on the 'Connecting on Country' event planned for YM2010 to show reciprocal respect and facilitate greater connection between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Equal numbers of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and equal numbers of each gender will be involved in the planning. A document is to be developed with a view to applying this process more widely. Harald will circulate this document after 28 August 2009.

### 10. AYM Secretary's visit

Jude Pembleton, AYM Secretary, is visiting Adelaide 15-19 September to meet with the YM2010 planning committee. It is proposed that an informal gathering be arranged with Jude for new Friends to talk with her about her role. This suggestion will be forwarded to Regional Meeting M&O.

### 11. Nunyara weekend

The weekend went well and was a time of fellowship. A committee was formed to write up some of the content of the weekend. We look forward to receiving their report.

Nunyara has been booked for 25-27 June 2010.

### 12. Report from Standing Committee

~ Kerry O'Regan reported that Standing Committee was invaluable, particularly in her role as convener of next year's Yearly Meeting; she recommends that in future

each convenor of the planning committee for the following Yearly Meeting should attend Standing Committee. Standing Committee was a wonderful example of Friends expressing strong opinions, then standing back from them and allowing deep listening and Quaker process.

~ Standing Committee recommended that SARM be receptive to approaches from SARM Young Friends to attend YM2010.

~ Standing Committee recommended that there be a SARM correspondent to the YM Children's Committee.

~ Two Friends from the Asia West Pacific, John Ocul and Bonifacio Quirog will be attending YM2010. The Outreach Committee is asked to consider other activities in which these Friends might like to be involved.

#### 13. Ecumenical activities

An evening for Friends hosted by St Peters Cathedral has been proposed. This proposal has been supported by Eastern Suburbs Meeting. Support is yet to be sought from Adelaide Local Meeting.

#### 14. Indigenous Concerns

At last RM it was requested that a letter be prepared on our behalf regarding the NT Intervention for consideration at this Regional Meeting. Minute continued. Cherylie Lloyd reports that the situation in the Northern Territory remains dire and Friends continue constant correspondence with people in the Northern Territory. Friends are asked to hold people in the Northern Territory and the Federal Government in the Light.

#### 15. World Children's Peace Choir

A new flyer has been produced, distributed at Standing Committee, provided to Helen Bayes on her overseas travels and distributed electronically to all Regional

Meetings. This flyer will be attached to these minutes.

#### 16. Peace and Social Justice

~ On Wednesday 1 July six Quakers joined with others in a lunchtime 'Singing Protest' on the steps of Parliament House to mark opposition to the Defence and Industry biennial trade market being held at the Convention Centre and sponsored by the Federal Defence Materiel Organisation and the SA Government.

~ Quakers intend to have an information stall at the Estonian Hall in Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide at an event to celebrate the UN International Day of Peace on Sunday 20 September. Outreach material and Quaker books for sale will be available on the stall, which will be operating between 1.00 and 5.00pm. One or two people are required to assist Brian Arnott on the stall.

#### 17. Earthcare

~ We note that the Adelaide Local Meeting solar panels have been commissioned.

~ The Eastern Suburbs Earthcare committee and children are planting trees today.

#### 18. Other business

Regional Meeting Children's Committee is proposed to be responsible for oversight of children's protection policy, act as correspondents to YM Children's Committee and remain mindful of children in all aspects of Quaker life. This matter is referred to Eastern Suburbs for consideration.

19. Next meeting: We hope to meet on 4 October at the Meeting House.

20. Close in silent worship.



### Amnesty quiz night

The 2009 Annual Fundraiser for the SA/NT Branch of Amnesty International will be held on Friday 21 August at 7.30pm at the Fullarton Community Centre 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton.

Tony Clancy will be Quizmaster.

Bookings of tables of 10 welcome now!!

Contact: 8110 8100

Cost: \$15 full price/\$12 concession (proof must be provided)

BYO drinks and nibbles.

Coffee and tea will be provided.

### Quakerpedia

Quakerpedia ([www.quakerpedia.org](http://www.quakerpedia.org)) is like wikipedia. That is, it's a Quaker wiki/encyclopaedia to which any individual can add information. Why not visit and tell the world about Quakers in Australia?

### Dance party erupts during Quaker Meeting for Worship

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XIMkK4\\_kTg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XIMkK4_kTg)

Pendle Hill's daily Quaker Worship transforms into a raucous dance party as the result of some unconventional ministry from Jon Watts. Filmed and edited by Ben Schilling.

Thank you to the Uniting Church publication *New Times* for permission to reprint the items on this page which appeared in the December 2008 issue.

## Imprisonment expensive and ineffective

The South Australian Government's 'get tough on crime' attitude is resulting in unsustainable costs and diminishing benefits according to Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of SA (OARS SA).

CEO Leigh Garrett believes we have reached a point where effective treatment and rehabilitation for prisoners is not assured.

'People released from prison are very likely to be worse off after their incarceration and have a higher chance of reoffending', he said.

## Focus on justice issues

### Charlene Kent Solidarity and Justice Officer

Our politicians are fond of talking tough on crime and are quoted as saying things like 'rack 'em, stack 'em and pack 'em' in relation to prisoners. In this context it would be easy to go along with the hype and believe that prisoners are bad people who deserve to be locked up.

But there's more to the story. Consider the following information drawn from a range of sources by the South Australian Council of Social Services (SACOSS).

- Issues related to poverty and disadvantage account for a 56 percent higher chance of offending later in life.
- Correctional Services estimates that between 60 and 80 percent of prisoners have literacy problems.
- Many prisoners have mental health and psychological issues. Between 1990 and 2006 there were 39 recorded suicides in South Australian prisons.
- Indigenous Australians are over-represented in prisons—an indicator of disadvantage and marginalisation.
- South Australia has the longest average prison term of any state.
- SA prisoner numbers are at a record high and expected to reach 2000 by the end of the year (up from 1435 in 2000-01).

When you also consider that high numbers of prisoners were abused as children, it is

[www.sa.uca.org.au/  
new-times-home.html](http://www.sa.uca.org.au/new-times-home.html)

OARS SA has just produced a report which demonstrates 'the enormous cost burden' being carried by the South Australian community 'to maintain an increasingly ineffective criminal justice system.'

The report says it costs \$185 a day or \$67,525 per annum to house a prisoner in SA in 2007. It estimates by 2018 there will be more than 3000 prisoners in the state and this could cost in excess of \$384,118 million.

It says it would be substantially cheaper and more effective for the government to develop restorative and diversionary justice processes.

clear that we are failing to protect our most vulnerable.

If we are serious about getting tough on crime shouldn't we focus on the issues that lead to crime? Shouldn't we implement early intervention programs to support vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised people and attempt to break the cycle? Shouldn't we implement rehabilitation programs that work and result in lower levels of recidivism? Shouldn't we be working to decrease prisoner numbers and prison terms?

The present approach is one that victimises and oppresses those who are already marginalised. It is not an approach in accord with a Christian view that humans are created in the image of God; nor in harmony with the Uniting Church's commitment to stand in solidarity with the poor.

There are a number of ways church members can get involved in justice issues:

- Get involved in prevention and early intervention initiatives, for example, support families and communities who are marginalised and disadvantaged.
- Write to your local MP, the Premier, Attorney General, Correctional Services Minister and the Opposition leader calling for better rehabilitation programs and improvements in prevention and early intervention.
- Support OARS SA ([www.oars.org.au](http://www.oars.org.au)) or Prison Fellowship ([www.pfi.org.au/sa](http://www.pfi.org.au/sa)).
- Educate yourself and others about the true state of our prison system.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we live.

We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country.

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kurna people today.

## Environmental eco tips

[www.globalstewards.org/reduce.htm](http://www.globalstewards.org/reduce.htm)

### First reduce

The critical first step of waste prevention has been overshadowed by a focus on recycling. Please help to promote a greater awareness of the importance of the 'reduce' part of the reduce-reuse-recycle mantra.

\* **Simplify your life** as much as possible. Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis. By making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less/create less waste in the future. Learn more through books on voluntary simplicity.

\* **Reduce purchases:** In general, think before you buy any product—do you really need it? How did the production of this product impact the environment and what further impacts will there be with the disposal of the product (and associated packaging materials)? When you are thinking about buying something, try the 30-day rule—wait 30 days after the first time you decide you want a product to really make your decision.

#### \* Tree-free home:

- Replace paper napkins with cloth
- Replace paper towels with cloth towels/napkins—store the used ones in a small container in your kitchen and just wash and reuse
- Purchase bleach-free toilet paper that is made from the highest post-consumer waste content you can find (80% minimum)
- Create and use note pads from once-used paper
- Leave messages for family members on a reusable message board
- Make your own cards/letters from once-used products or handmade paper
- If you will be doing construction on your house, search out alternatives to using newly cut wood (no endorsement of any company intended):
  - straw bale
  - bamboo—two sites to check out: Plyboo and Teragren
  - true (natural) linoleum
  - previously used wood

- cob
- composite decking

\* **Bulk purchases:** Avoid products that are packaged for single use (ie drinks, school lunches, cat and dog food, salad mixings, etc). Instead, buy in bulk and transfer the products to reusable containers. Many health food stores have bulk bins where they sell everything from grains to cereal to cleaning products.

\* **Avoid rubbish:** Avoid creating rubbish wherever possible. When ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws, etc. Buy ice cream in a cone instead of a cup, don't accept 'free' promotional products, buy products with the least amount of packaging. Every little bit does make a difference!

#### \* Junk mail:

- Reduce personal and business junk mail
- Do-it-yourself: stop junk mail, email and phone calls
- Opt-out

\* **Green hotels:** When staying at a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast let the management know that you like to support businesses that adopt environmentally responsible practices (including reducing waste). To locate environmentally friendly hotels, search the internet for 'ecotourism'.

\* **Waste-free lunches:** Pack a waste-free lunch whenever possible.

\* **Mug-to-go:** Carry a mug with you wherever you go for take-away beverages.



## Quaker Shop report for July 2009

The Shop has continued to operate smoothly in July, despite the anticipated absences of some of the volunteers who either fled the winter in Adelaide, or succumbed to winter illnesses. We have several new volunteers who are fitting in well and say that they are enjoying working in the Shop's friendly atmosphere.

One highlight has been the donation of about 30 wedding dresses and beautiful fabrics by a nearby bridal shop which has closed recently. We would appreciate the help of Friends to make this resource better known in the community. We are selling them for ten per cent of the retail price.

The minor electrical repair work has not been done as yet, but we hope that this will be done soon. The new storm water drains and gutters which were installed in June have worked well through the recent rains. We are now waiting for the walls to dry out sufficiently to allow plastering of the building's walls and the relocation of the toilet. We anticipate that this work will be done during the

usual Christmas break, if this can be arranged with the builder, Randall Shelton. A quote is being sought from him for extending the work on relocating the toilet to include plastering the walls of the rest of the Shop at the same time.

We invite all members of the Meeting to visit the Shop to either donate saleable goods, or better still, to buy treasures from our Shop!

### The Finances

Since the building is owned by ALM, negotiations are continuing concerning the need to consult before undertaking necessary repairs to the fabric of the building (to be paid for from our Contingencies Fund).

In June our income was \$7830. The July income is not yet available. In July we have paid the following:

|         |                         |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Telstra | \$39.08                 |
| ARA     | \$1000.00               |
| QSA     | \$6000.00               |
| ALM     | \$2250.00               |
|         | (3 months contribution) |

Topsy Evans  
*Co-Manager*

## Looking for a wedding dress? Then get thyself to the Quaker Shop!

The Quaker Shop has received about 30 new wedding dresses. You may have heard Peter Goers giving several plugs on ABC891.

The shop is getting a steady trickle of enquiries and sales, but would love more. We've been asking all of our customers if they know of anyone who is getting married soonish, and this word of mouth approach is a good idea for Friends to try.

They are mostly small sizes, but with a few larger ones, and are selling for 10% of the price on their price tags: our prices would therefore range from about \$100—\$270.



## Teaching the faiths

### Reflections on Interfaith teaching

Thursday, 20 August 2009

19:30–21:30

Sophia Centre, Cabra Dominican College  
225 Cross Road, Cumberland Park  
ronhoenig@bigpond.com

The 'clash of civilisations' is a family quarrel.

As children of Abraham, Christianity, Judaism and Islam have much in common.

In April 2009, the Dialogue Australasia Network (DAN) held a national conference,

Teaching the Abrahamic Religions, to equip educators with practical strategies and resources to enable students to explore the similarities, differences and relationships between the Abrahamic faith traditions and develop understanding.

The Council of Christians and Jews SA invites you to Teaching the Faiths, a reflection on the DAN conference by two South Australian teachers of religion and history.

Understanding these three religions and their contribution to our world is vital and urgent for us all as global citizens.

## Want to change the world?

[www.wearewhatwedo.org.au](http://www.wearewhatwedo.org.au)

We are **what we do** is a new kind of movement inspiring people to change the world one small action at a time. Their philosophy is simple:

**small actions x lots of people  
= big change**

The website lists 130 small things that you can do to change really big things.

Pick an action, track it and see how it all adds up. The first 15 tips are:

- 01 Learn mouth to mouth
- 02 Decline plastic bags wherever possible

- 03 Read a story with a child
- 04 Fit at least one energy saving light bulb globe
- 05 Smile and smile back
- 06 Take public transport when you can
- 07 Plant something
- 08 Have a bath with someone you love
- 09 Learn the traditional owners of your area
- 10 Turn your thermostat down by 1°
- 11 Get fitter, feel better
- 12 Turn off appliances at the mains
- 13 Recycle your mobile phone
- 14 Spend time with someone from a different generation
- 15 Register online as an organ donor

## Kiva: loans that change lives

[www.kiva.org/](http://www.kiva.org/)

Kiva's mission is to **connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty.**

Kiva is the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to unique entrepreneurs in the developing world.

**The people you see on Kiva's site are real individuals in need of funding—not marketing material.** When you browse entrepreneurs' profiles on the site, choose someone to lend to, and then make a loan, you are helping a real person make great strides towards economic independence and improve life for themselves, their family, and their community. Throughout the course of the loan (usually 6-12 months), you can receive email journal updates and track repayments. Then, when you get your loan money back, you can relend to someone else in need.

Kiva partners with existing expert microfinance institutions gaining access to outstanding entrepreneurs from impoverished communities world-wide.

Through Kiva, our partners upload their entrepreneur profiles directly so you can lend to them. You get a unique experience connecting to a specific entrepreneur on the other side of the planet, and Kiva's microfinance partners can do more of what they do, more efficiently.

**Kiva provides a data-rich, transparent lending platform.** We are constantly working to make the system more transparent to show how money flows throughout the entire cycle, and what effect it has on the people and institutions lending it, borrowing it, and managing it along the way. The individuals featured on our website are real people who need a loan and are waiting for socially-minded individuals like you to lend them money.



## Gerry Guiton: My Concern

### Northern Suburbs LM (VRM)

'Leadings' and 'Concerns' are central aspects of Quaker faith and practice. Note the upper-case 'C' and 'L'. According to Paul Lacey's excellent *Leadings and being led*, a Leading finds its source in 'holy obedience', that is, listening to the Spirit with discernment and responding with integrity. A Leading is not only a matter of individual perception and reason, however insightful, but the result of an inner Spirit-led prompting. Quakers are urged to be open to the daily clues which might suggest a Leading towards a God-directed activity.

Leadings may be brought before a Meeting for Worship for Business and/or a Meeting for Clearness. During the latter, questions will be asked, practical considerations of a general nature offered and personal and (possibly) financial realities raised: a Friend with a Leading will not be offered detailed advice since the process belongs to them. If it is realised a Leading is not a true calling it should not be pursued; alternatively, a Friend may set a Leading aside for future consideration. Of course, a person may have concluded confidently prior to any such process that they were clearly 'under Concern'. The Friends believe that a true Concern will stand the test of time and any obstacles it encounters.

While discernment can involve a lengthy period, a meeting might quickly decide to support a Leading, considering it in 'right ordering' and thus a Concern for the Meeting itself—and possibly a Yearly Meeting should its significance allow progression to that level.

Of course, we might forget that a business meeting has previously endorsed a Concern. And new people might have entered a meeting unaware that such a Concern is already its responsibility. When a Concern has been adopted by a meeting it does indeed become the responsibility of the collective body.

#### *My Concern*

My Concern fell into three stages. The first was to gain a PhD, write it up as a book (organising its wide distribution) and travel in the ministry in Australia and overseas, if possible, and then (somehow) set up (at least the rudiments of) an Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice (for want of a name!). Some of my ministry could be done by email or other means. It is

important to remember that, for Friends, travelling in the ministry is a religious, if sacred, act and can entail hardship and much financial cost. This certainly applied to me.

I was awarded a Monash scholarship in 1993 and began my research the following year. Being someone who best works to deadlines, the PhD process would discipline me into doing just that. In the meantime, it meant giving up a regular salary and devoting long hours researching and organising field work, itself a very complex activity; approximately one-third of a doctorate should be field work. My research meant the composition of a 100 000 word thesis on the spiritual and historical underpinnings of contemporary Quaker mediation and conflict resolution activities in developing countries afflicted by warfare. A copy of the thesis is in the VRM library and I also sent it to other RM libraries on disk.

I interviewed 46 Friends in Australia, South Africa, Germany and the UK. One Friend interviewed was Hendrick van der Merwe, a South African and an international mediator. He knew Nelson Mandela and had visited him in prison. He had also helped educate Mandela's children, putting one of them through university. That was the measure of the man. We became great friends and I helped secure him as Backhouse Lecturer for 2000. Other Friends I interviewed included the 2008 Backhouse Lecturer and Templeton Prize winner, George Ellis, previous Backhouse Lecturers Duncan Wood and Di Bretherton and Swarthmore Lecturers Adam Curle and Wolf Mendle. There were other 'big' names, too! The interviews are really inspiring. I plan to put them on CD and donate them to various Quaker libraries including our own.

Field work in South Africa was quite an experience! For a start, it was not always positive. The country's horrendous violence lingered within me for about six months afterwards and I would take long hot baths to cleanse myself symbolically of the evil I had repeatedly experienced. I narrowly missed being shot on two occasions and being blown up by a terrorist on another. I was also involved in a nasty road accident: it is an understatement to say that driving in South Africa is hazardous.

But now I want to add something important. The spiritual underpinnings of the Quaker experience described in my book derives from what has been traditionally known as the Kingdom of God,

what today I call the Rule (or Covenant) of Love. It was *the* unifying factor of the early Quakers who, like Jesus, made it their main Concern. Today, it is *the* key to the unification of Friends worldwide even though Friends are generally unaware of this. The story of the Kingdom among the early Quakers and the importance it has for the future of Quakerism—*actually its very survival*—is, more explicitly, the subject of my new book which I have nearly finished. Respected readers have been kind enough to give me feedback. But, before you read what John Punshon, an internationally known Friend, has to say, I want to emphasise that *this is not about me but about the Kingdom*, its spread as a discreet entity among Quakers in particular as well as about the part our Society can play in this 'great commission'.

You might say this is a Concern within a Concern. Here's John:

If I had a trust behind me, I would send a copy to every meeting in the country. The book is packed with revealing detail with new insights on almost every page. You have given us a splendid systematic theology of early Quakerism ... the work that you and Carole [Spencer] have done in fact encourages us to move toward a new kind of context for the emergence of our Society, one which is primarily theological rather than historical but which retains a serious historical dynamic.

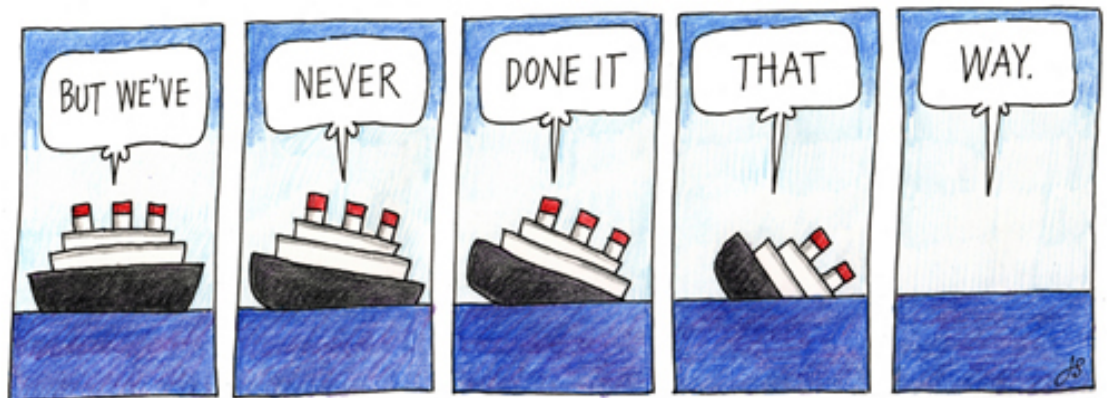
In other words, I have broken completely new ground in Quaker studies and it has important implications for Friends.

In addition, I give workshops around Australia and write other materials. I have given workshops in Canberra, Brisbane and

Sydney and completed the first in a series of six Bible studies which is now with the YM Publications Committee. Entitled 'The revolutionary politics of the Kingdom (rule of love)', I hope they will publish it as a pamphlet. However, it is no ordinary Bible study for it is Scripture with a powerful Quaker message and it doubles up as a teaching tool which Australian and overseas Meetings can easily use. FWCC (Europe) has expressed interest in it for their new online study program and our own Asia-west Pacific section of FWCC is in the process of translating it into several Asian languages in addition to Spanish. I am currently preparing the second in the series focusing on the Sermon on the Mount.

*Revolutionary politics* formed the core of a talk I gave at YM in Canberra in January 2009 to which 45 people attended. It answered such a need, I think, that another 25 people turned up at a hastily convened second session. I repeat: *this is not about me* because the talk raised the importance issue of Quaker identity in a fast-changing and often confusing world, and (I'm speculating here) the need for a coherent theology as a way forward for the Society and as a means of effective outreach. I would like to give it to my own Friends in Victoria.

Now, as is usual with true Concerns, the Spirit helps them on their way. Things seem to fall into line. So the YM-encouraged Australian Quaker Centre—a form of 'institute' mentioned earlier—has emerged over the horizon and I am delighted to be one of its core teachers and enthusiastic about its potential for all Friends in this part of the world.



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## Three conversions necessary: heart, mind and purse

Oliver Robertson

(Extract from *The Friend* (UK), 3 July 2009)  
Quakers need to stop treating money like a taboo subject and start thinking about it as part of their spiritual life, a gathering of Quaker treasurers has heard.

At the Annual Conference of Treasurers, which was told that donations from individuals and Quaker Meetings to the centrally managed work of Britain Yearly Meeting is £100,000 down compared to this time last year, Friends were asked to treat what they do with their wealth as a way of witnessing to their faith.

'The main factor, we concluded, why income was going down is because people are not being asked for money', said Rachel Rees, head of communications and fundraising for Britain Yearly Meeting. She pointed out that Quakers are good at talking about many other big issues, such as sex and how to live your life, but that money seems to be a stumbling block. She acknowledged that the issue needs to be dealt with sensitively, to respond to the different financial situations of Friends, but went on: 'Giving is a way in which people can put their faith into action, particularly for newer attenders and younger professionals who may not have time to give to committee work.'

Kate Gulliver, who attended the conference, felt strongly that 'you can't have your Meeting for Worship and only do the spiritual bit ... it is the financial energy that allows the spiritual energy to flow and happen'. The failure to ask for money 'can simply be the classic "somebody should ask them and everybody assumes that someone else has done, so nobody does."' This failure to talk about money has another side to it, warned Rachel: it means that overseers and others could be unaware of Friends in financial need. 'It goes back to living in community and helping one another up', she said.

The results of a survey of Meetings carried out by Quaker Communications Department suggested that the Meetings that were keeping their contributions to centrally managed work up were the ones that were most willing to explain about the financial need and ask for new or increased contributions. It found that older Friends continue to donate, but that younger and newer Quakers are less likely to give as much, meaning that when older Friends died or left, the Meeting struggled financially.

'One other issue the survey picked up', said Kate Cargin, 'one of the team carrying it out, was that attenders are not being asked to donate.' 'What does that say about our attitude to attenders?' she asked. 'That they'll be scared off? Actually, that's really condescending. If they come to Meeting they probably value what they're finding.'

As well as dwelling on problems that need to change, the conference also heard from Quaker treasurers involved in good or innovative practices. Friends in Cornwall have worked with other churches in Cornwall to examine each other's annual reports and accounts, while West Kent Quakers are developing a system whereby the Area Meeting treasurer also keeps the books and prepares the accounts of Local Meetings, so that while each Local Meeting keeps its own money, it doesn't need a treasurer.

In its minute, the conference asked: 'When did we as individuals last give money, perhaps a substantial sum, as an act of love?' This was echoed by Rachel Rees, who quoted Protestant reformer Martin Luther's assertion that there needed to be three conversions: of the heart, the mind and the purse. Quaker finances 'need to be a whole Meeting issue and it needs to be a spiritual issue,' she said, before concluding: 'A flourishing Yearly Meeting is the best possible legacy we can leave to our children and grandchildren.'

There needs  
to be three  
conversions:  
of the heart,  
the mind and  
the purse.

## Nunyara: Bits and pieces

Robin Sinclair

*Some thoughts on schisms among early Quakers, after hearing Dale Hess's presentations on the subject or*

*Trouble with the Spirit*

Those who gave heedings  
To promptings or leadings  
In different directions  
Created defections.

*Moral:* Revelation  
Leads to agitation.  
Look for the Light—

But hold on tight!

### Definitions

How can we define a Quaker?  
Tinker, tailor, trouble-maker,  
Mover, yes, and also shaker,  
Of the social norms, a breaker,  
To apathetic souls, a waker,  
Of the bread of life, a baker,  
Of the leaves of life, a raker.  
Richman, poorman, beggarman, Friend...  
Which would you rather be in the end?

## Meetings for Worship

**Adelaide Local Meeting**  
11.00am Sunday

Friends Meeting House  
40a Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide

**Alice Springs Worshipping Group**

Katy Egger alicesprings@quakers.org.au

**Copper Triangle Recognised Meeting**

Roger Norris-Green (08) 8825 1981

Copper Triangle Meeting for Worship is holding Winter Meetings in various homes on the first and third Sundays at 4.00pm. If any Friends are up this way and want to join us, best phone 8825 1981

**Darwin Worshipping Group**

4.45pm first and third Sunday of each month  
Salvation Army Community Centre  
cnr Lee Point Road/Yanyula Drive, Anula, Darwin

Neil Chadwick (08) 8945 5505  
Barbara Sampson (08) 8932 2019

**Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting**

10.00am Sunday

Leabrook Guide Hall  
Rochester Street, Leabrook—0424 080 740

**Evening meeting**

6.00pm Sunday

Friends Meeting House  
40a Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide

**Fleurieu Recognised Meeting**

11.00am second and last Sunday of each month  
Council Chambers, The Strand, Port Elliot

Shirley Dunn (08) 8555 2778

**Hills Recognised Meeting**

10.30am second Sunday of each month

Bert and Jenny Stock  
tilby\_stock@internode.on.net

**Southern Worshipping Group**

Third Sunday of each month

Colin & Barbara Talbot  
cbtalbot@sa.chariot.net.au

## Meetings for Worship for Quaker Business

**Adelaide Local Meeting:**

last Sunday of the month (except December)

Co-clerks: Ann Rees & Roger Keyes  
annrees@chariot.net.au

**Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting:** last Sunday of every second month (a week before each RM)

Clerk: Jo Jordan  
jojordan@ozemail.com.au

**SA Regional Meeting:**

first Sunday of alternate (even) months

Clerk: Drew Thomas  
drew.thomas@inet.net.au

## Other meetings

**Fellowship of healing**

Meeting House library at 12.30pm on the second Wednesday and the fourth Friday of each month



## Meet the Secretary

Your chance to meet our AYM Secretary Jude Pembleton, who will be in Adelaide for YM2010 consultations, is at a 6.00pm shared meal at the home of Topsy and David Evans, 3 Moorhouse Avenue, Myrtle Bank, on Thursday 17 September.

## International Day of Prayer for Peace

**Monday 21 September 2009**

SA Council of Churches International Day of Peace Project Team has prepared Resources and Prayers for 2009 to assist schools, congregations, inter-church councils, people in aged care facilities and other groups and individuals to participate in a variety of ways in the International Day of Peace.

For more details are available from [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au).

## How many Quakers does it take to change a lightbulb?

Answer 1:

Why, the whole meeting, of course. One Friend can install it, to be sure—but only after the rest have weightily considered whether they wouldn't be bearing a truer testimony to the Inner Light, not to mention simplicity, by learning to get along without it.

Answer 2:

I don't know.

Me either. I'll check with the premises committee.